

Into the Bitter Woods

THE HÜRTGEN FOREST and
THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE
on THE ROAD TO BERLIN

OCTOBER 8-15, 2026

Aachen | Hürtgen Forest | Diekirch

Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery

Wereth | Clervaux | Bastogne | Malmedy

Luxembourg American Cemetery | Brussels

OPTIONAL PRE-TOUR EXTENSION
Operation Market Garden
Featuring Expert Guide Edwin Popken

OCTOBER 5-8, 2026

Dear World Traveler,

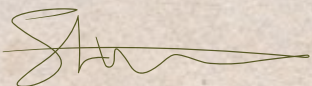
In late 1944, few Allied leaders thought a massive German counterattack could be possible. Rome fell on June 5, and, one day later, the greatest amphibious invasion in history brought nearly 160,000 men to the shores of Normandy on D-Day. By the end of August, French and American soldiers were marching through the streets of Paris. Hitler's "Atlantic Wall" had been breached, and the Allies were rushing toward the German border on the road to Berlin. As Christmas approached, the Allied forces in Europe felt the war was nearing its end. But on December 16, that optimism vanished suddenly. The supposedly impossible German counterattack was here—and it was larger than anyone could have anticipated. With more than 200,000 German assault troops poised to push into the Ardennes, and another 800,000 in reserve, the next five weeks tested the limits of our troops.

I invite you to join The National WWII Museum on a comprehensive tour of significant battles that took place in the fall and winter of 1944, events crucial to the Allies' eventual victory on the long and grueling road to Berlin. This all-new itinerary is custom curated by historians in the Jenny Craig Institute for the Study of War and Democracy and brought to life by our own Educational Travel Team. Expertly researched here at the Museum in New Orleans and led by expert local guides in Europe, this is the most immersive tour of the Hürtgen and Ardennes regions available today. From Aachen, tour the Hürtgen Forest and learn more about the series of battles fought here from September to December 1944. Next, enter into the Bastogne corridor and the Luxembourg Ardennes, tracing the routes of the last major German offensive in the West. Encounter the heroic stories of the American soldiers who won the largest and costliest campaign fought by the US Army in World War II.

Anyone who has read or watched *Band of Brothers* by Museum founder Stephen E. Ambrose knows of the swirling snow, the bitter cold, and the murderous nature of the German onslaught. Guests on this tour will be accompanied by an original cast member from the miniseries, who will give firsthand insights into what it was like to portray a WWII veteran and film in such realistic conditions.

Join us for this inspiring educational journey and stand in the precise locations where the American spirit overcame the desperate last gamble of the Third Reich.

Sincerely,



Stephen J. Watson
President & CEO
The National WWII Museum



SOLDIERS EATING RATIONS
IN THE FIELD

7TH ARMORED DIVISION M4 SHERMAN
TANKS PARKED NEAR ST. VITH

AMERICAN INFANTRYMEN MOVE THROUGH HÜRTGEN FOREST NEAR VOSSENACK, GERMANY.

COVER IMAGE: AMERICAN INFANTRYMEN TRUDGE THROUGH THE SNOW ALONGSIDE A WHITE-WASHED M4 SHERMAN TANK OF THE US 750TH TANK BATTALION NEAR ST. VITH, BELGIUM, DURING THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE.



ROAD TO BERLIN: EUROPEAN THEATER GALLERIES | BATTLE OF THE BULGE GALLERY



ABOUT

THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM

The National WWII Museum tells the story of the American experience in *the war that changed the world*—why it was fought, how it was won, and what it means today—so that all generations will understand the price of freedom and be inspired by what they learn.

Rated the top attraction in New Orleans and among the best museums in the world, The National WWII Museum explores the story of the American experience in World War II through immersive exhibits, multimedia experiences, educational resources, and an expansive collection of artifacts and personal accounts. The Museum's New Orleans campus provides vivid insight into World War II, but nothing can tell its story more dramatically than a visit to the sites where victory was fought for and won.

As part of the nation's preeminent institution for preserving and sharing WWII history, the Museum's Travel Program is dedicated to providing the highest-quality educational content by creating custom-curated itineraries, arranging the finest boutique hotel accommodations, procuring comprehensive local dining experience in the countries we visit, and touring aboard premium motor coaches and cruise ships. Experience a journey in first-class comfort to the beaches, bridges, cities, and villages where crucial battles took place and history-defining decisions were made.

Traveling with The National WWII Museum offers a unique and enriching experience that goes beyond typical group tour itineraries—it provides a meaningful journey that honors the past while inspiring future generations.

TRAVEL WITH THE AUTHORITY ON WWII EDUCATION

EXPERT-LED EXPERIENCES

Our tours are guided by a combination of expert historians, local guides, and Museum staff members who provide in-depth insights, drawing from our immense collections of artifacts, oral histories, and personal accounts from WWII veterans that you won't find on other tours.

IMMERSIVE LEARNING

Each tour is designed to offer a deep dive into World War II, engaging lifelong learners of all backgrounds—from those with a vast knowledge of history to others just beginning to explore the events that shaped our world.

ENGAGING COMMUNITY

Our tours have created a community of passionate history enthusiasts who often have personal links to those who fought and won the war. Our itineraries include opportunities to foster meaningful connections with other travelers who share an interest in understanding the past.

SUPPORTING OUR MISSION

By traveling with us, you contribute to the preservation of WWII history and support educational initiatives that honor the sacrifices made during the war.

LUXURY ACCOMMODATIONS AND FINE DINING

Our team supports the local economies of the places we visit, staying in hand-selected boutique hotels and enjoying dining experiences that showcase locally sourced ingredients.



TOUR GUEST VIEWS A WEHRMACHT SOLDIER'S UNIFORM AND GEAR AT THE DECEMBER 1944 MUSEUM IN LA GLEIZE, BELGIUM.



TOUR GUESTS POSE IN FRONT OF A TIGER II TANK AT THE DECEMBER 1944 MUSEUM IN LA GLEIZE, BELGIUM. THIS VEHICLE WAS ONE OF THE MANY LEFT BEHIND BY PEIPER'S 1ST SS PANZER REGIMENT IN 1944 AS THEY WITHDREW.



AN EXPERT LOCAL GUIDE SHOWING A WWII-ERA PHOTO OF THE TOWN SQUARE IN CLERVAUX, LUXEMBOURG.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

PATTON'S 4TH ARMORED DIVISION AND THE "FIRECALL" TO BASTOGNE

After Brigadier General Anthony McAuliffe famously rejected the German demand to surrender, clearer weather allowed the besieged GIs in Bastogne to receive airborne supply drops on December 23–24. Allied aircraft also bombed surrounding German troop concentrations. In retaliation, the Germans launched their own nighttime bombings of Bastogne. By the 26th, General George S. Patton's 4th Armored Division had postured for a breakthrough of Bastogne from the south.

Three 4th Armored Division combat commands began pushing north toward Bastogne from the towns of Martelange, Witre, and Neufchâteau, facing stiff resistance from the German 5th Parachute Division. Combat Command R (CCR), including the 37th Tank Battalion, achieved the final breakthrough. Led by Lieutenant Colonel Creighton Abrams, the most famous American tank commander of World War II and future Chief of Staff of the US Army, the battalion's 20 remaining tanks attempted the planned final breakthrough through Remichampagne and Clochimont. By 3:00 p.m. on the 26th, with daylight fading, the 37th Tank Battalion scrapped the planned attack toward the northwest town of Sibret and instead opted for a direct push north to Assenois, just a mile away. With Bastogne only three miles beyond Assenois, the besieged 101st Airborne soldiers received word that American tanks were advancing from the south along the Assenois road.

Eight C Company Sherman tanks, followed by half-tracks, led the charge. At 4:45 p.m., First Lieutenant Charles P. Boggess Jr., commanding the lead tank *Cobra King*, initiated an artillery strike on Assenois and charged forward in the assault. German defenders mounted stiff resistance, and hand-to-hand fighting erupted. Despite this, Boggess pressed forward through the town, firing 22 shots from *Cobra King*'s 75mm main gun in quick succession. Along with four other Sherman tanks and a half-track, the lead element of the 37th Tank Battalion pushed north through Assenois.

Upon reaching the last German strongpoint outside Bastogne, a green-painted pillbox, *Cobra King* fired three rounds from its 75mm gun, killing the final German defenders. Just 100 yards beyond the pillbox, Boggess shouted into the darkness, "Come here! This is the 4th Armored." After a brief pause, a figure came forward and stated, "I'm Lieutenant Webster of the 326th Engineers, 101st Airborne Division. Glad to see you." Within 30 minutes, Abrams advanced up through Assenois, and McAuliffe arrived at the outpost to offer greetings. With this linkup, the siege of Bastogne ended.



COBRA KING, THE FIRST TANK TO BREAK THROUGH TO THE BESIEGED AMERICAN GIs IN BASTOGNE



DISTINCTIVE UNIT CREST OF THE 37TH TANK BATTALION

FIRST LIEUTENANT CHARLES P. BOGGESS JR.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL CREIGHTON ABRAMS



Hear Raymond Mason's account of the 4th Armored Division's assault toward Bastogne by scanning the QR code.

Into the Bitter Woods

THE HÜRTGEN FOREST and THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE on THE ROAD TO BERLIN

Featuring expert battlefield guides and an original cast member from the award-winning HBO miniseries *Band of Brothers*

OCTOBER 8-15, 2026

~~\$7,499~~ **\$6,999** per person based on double occupancy

~~\$8,799~~ **\$8,299** single occupancy

\$299 taxes and fees per person are additional.

BOOK BY NOVEMBER 11, 2025, AND SAVE \$500 PER PERSON.

AACHEN | HÜRTGEN FOREST | DIEKIRCH
HENRI-CHAPELLE AMERICAN CEMETERY
WERETH | CLERVAUX | BASTOGNE | MALMEDY
LUXEMBOURG AMERICAN CEMETERY | BRUSSELS

PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

- Expert battlefield guides throughout the itinerary
- Tour with a cast member from the HBO miniseries *Band of Brothers*
- Full-time National WWII Museum logistical tour manager
- Video oral history presentations from the Museum's collection
- VIP access to sites not offered on other tours
- Personal listening devices on all included touring
- Accommodations for two nights at Parkhotel Quellenhof Aachen, four nights at Château d'Urspelt in Clervaux, and one night at Sheraton Brussels Airport Hotel
- 7 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches, 3 Dinners, and 2 Receptions
- Beer, wine, and soft drinks included with lunches and dinners
- Private, first-class, motor coach transportation with bottled water
- Round-trip airport transfers (on scheduled group arrival and departure days)
- Gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, and servers
- Informative map book including useful battlefield maps and archival images to be used throughout your journey
- Personalized luggage tags and customized name badge





BASTOGNE BARRACKS



TOUR GUESTS AT THE FORMER LANGER FAMILY FARMHOUSE NEAR WERETH, BELGIUM



LUXEMBOURG AMERICAN CEMETERY

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Bastogne

Visit Bastogne, where American forces withstood the German counteroffensive during the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944. Surrounded and facing brutal winter conditions, the 101st Airborne Division and elements of Patton's Third Army helped turn the tide of the Battle of the Bulge. Tour Bastogne Barracks, a former command post that now serves as a museum and vehicle restoration site. Pay respects at the graves of Belgian nurses Renée Lemaire, who was killed during the bombardment, and Augusta Chiwy, who treated wounded American soldiers. This stop offers a clear look at the challenges, resilience, and human cost of the Ardennes campaign.

Langer Family Farmhouse

Visit the former Langer family farmhouse near Wereth, Belgium, where 11 African American soldiers from the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion spent the final night of their lives during the Battle of the Bulge. After becoming separated from their unit, the soldiers—now known as the Wereth 11—were welcomed with compassion and offered food and shelter by the Langer family. Tragically, the men were soon captured, tortured, and executed by German SS troops, likely after being reported by a local resident. This visit offers an opportunity to honor the memory of the Wereth 11, learn their names, and reflect on the courageous efforts of the Langer family to assist them in their final hours.

Luxembourg American Cemetery

Visit the Luxembourg American Cemetery, where over 5,000 US servicemembers are buried—many of whom fought in the Battle of the Bulge. Walk among the graves of infantrymen, tankers, medics, and airmen who gave their lives during the brutal winter campaign. The cemetery also includes the gravesite of General George S. Patton, commander of the US Third Army. Reflect at the chapel and memorial wall inscribed with the names of the missing. This stop offers a solemn tribute to the cost of victory and the legacy of American sacrifice in Europe.



ITINERARY

OPERATION MARKET GARDEN

Pre-tour extension featuring expert guide Edwin Popken

OCTOBER 5-8, 2026

Into the Bitter Woods

Day 1 **OCTOBER 8, 2026 | ARRIVAL IN BRUSSELS**

Arrive at Brussels Airport (BRU) / Transfer to Aachen / Free time for lunch in Aachen city center / Walking tour of Aachen / Welcome Reception and Dinner

Accommodations: Parkhotel Quellenhof Aachen (R, D)

Day 2 **OCTOBER 9, 2026 | THE HÜRTGEN FOREST AND HILL 400**

Vossenack / 1944 Hürtgenwald Museum / Group lunch in the Hürtgen Forest / Hill 400

Accommodations: Parkhotel Quellenhof Aachen (B, L)

Day 3 **OCTOBER 10, 2026 | HENRI-CHAPELLE AMERICAN CEMETERY AND ST. VITH**

Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery / Lunch on own in Monschau, Germany / St. Vith / Wereth / Langer Family Farmhouse / Transfer to Luxembourg

Accommodations: Chateau d'Urpselt (B, D)

Day 4 **OCTOBER 11, 2026 | 28TH INFANTRY DIVISION**

Hosingen / Dahl / Wiltz / Diekirch / Schumann's Eck

Accommodations: Chateau d'Urpselt (B, L)

Day 5 **OCTOBER 12, 2026 | NOVILLE AND BASTOGNE**

Follow the path of the German 5th Panzer Army / Our River Bridge in Dasburg / Memorial to René Lemaire / Bois Jacques / Easy Company foxholes

Accommodations: Chateau d'Urpselt (B)

Day 6 **OCTOBER 13, 2026 | LUXEMBOURG CITY**

The National Museum of Military History / Lunch on own in Luxembourg City / 12th Army Group Headquarters / "Patton's Chapel" / Luxembourg American Cemetery

Accommodations: Chateau d'Urpselt (B, R, D)

Day 7 **OCTOBER 14, 2026 | PEIPER'S ROUTE**

Follow the path of Peiper's attack / Stavelot / Malmedy / Trois-Ponts / La Gleize / Transfer to Brussels / Evening at leisure

Accommodations: Sheraton Brussels Airport Hotel (B, L)

Day 8 **OCTOBER 15, 2026 | DEPARTURE FROM BRUSSELS**

Independently scheduled flights from Brussels Airport (BRU) (B)

MEET THE FEATURED EXPERTS AND SPECIAL GUESTS



Pre-Tour

Edwin Popken Military Historian and Battlefield Guide

Edwin Popken has studied World War II for more than 25 years and has led guided tours to both famous and lesser-known battlefields throughout Europe. His area of expertise focuses on Allied operations in Northwestern Europe between September 1944 and March 1945. A regular guide on the Museum's Easy Company: From England to the Eagle's Nest tours, Popken has escorted guests from around the world to sites made significant during Operation Market Garden, the

Battle of the Hürtgen Forest, and the Battle of the Bulge. Popken holds a master's degree in military history from the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom and is a member of the International Guild of Battlefield Guides, Guild Badge No. 93.



Aachen and Hürtgen

Joris Nieuwint Military Historian and Battlefield Guide

A lifelong resident of the Netherlands, Joris Nieuwint brings nearly three decades of in-depth study and personal passion to every battlefield tour he leads. Since 2012, Nieuwint has guided countless individuals, families of veterans, school groups, military units, and history enthusiasts across some of Europe's most significant WWII sites. Nieuwint offers deeply engaging tours supported by historical maps, rare photos, aerial imagery, and multimedia

elements, providing both the strategic overview and the human stories behind the battles.



Battle of the Bulge

Roland Gaul Military Historian, Battlefield Guide, and Founder of the National Museum of Military History in Luxembourg

Born in Diekirch, Luxembourg, Roland Gaul has collected Battle of the Bulge artifacts since childhood. Growing up with the remains of one of history's largest land battles in his backyard, Gaul developed a keen interest in military history at a young age. A graduate of the Diekirch Lycée Classique, Gaul continued his studies at the Royal Military Academy (ERM) in Brussels, Belgium. In 1982, he

founded the Diekirch Historical Society and the Diekirch Historical Museum, which became the National Museum of Military History in 1993. A scholar, lecturer, historian, consultant, and author of several books, including the field guide *Battle of the Bulge in Luxembourg*, Gaul has led many tours in the Ardennes over his 30 years as a guide for international audiences. He has also served as a consultant on many Battle of the Bulge films and documentaries.



Battle of the Bulge

Robin Laing | *Band of Brothers* Actor, Pvt. Edward "Babe" Heffron

Born in Dundee, Scotland, Robin Laing grew up in the fishing and golf towns of Arbroath and Carnoustie. After studying drama, he landed his first acting job playing Renton in the stage adaptation of Irvine Welsh's *Trainspotting*. Many more roles were to follow, including the lead role of Phil McCann in John Byrne's film *The Slab Boys* and Major MacDonald in *Outlander*, as well as shows such as *Shetland*, *The Victim*, and, most recently, *The Gold*. In 2000, Laing was cast

as Private Edward J. "Babe" Heffron in the HBO miniseries *Band of Brothers*, which follows the lives and achievements of the 101st Airborne's Easy Company during World War II. He had no idea that this eight-month job would have such a profound effect on his life and lead to lifelong friendships, not only with his fellow cast members, but also with the veterans on whom the series was based and their families.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

STAVELOT

One of the most brutal war crimes committed by German forces during the Battle of the Bulge occurred in the Belgian town of Stavelot. As part of the Ardennes Offensive, *Kampfgruppe Peiper* pushed through the region in an attempt to capture key road junctions. In their path, they encountered civilians who were either suspected of aiding the Allies or simply caught in the chaos of war. On December 18–19, 1944, SS troops systematically executed more than 130 Belgian civilians, including men, women, and children. Many were shot in their homes, while others were herded into buildings and gunned down in cold blood.

This massacre was part of the wider pattern of atrocities committed by the Waffen-SS during the offensive, reflecting their disregard for the rules of war. The killings in Stavelot were not isolated; they mirrored the infamous Malmedy Massacre, in which American prisoners of war were slaughtered by *Kampfgruppe Peiper*. The violence in Stavelot was fueled by the German belief that civilians were assisting US forces, but it also demonstrated the brutality of the Nazi regime as they fought desperately to regain the initiative. After the battle, these war crimes were investigated, and many of those responsible were later tried and convicted at the Dachau Trials. Today, Stavelot remembers these tragic events with memorials honoring the innocent lives lost.



FIRST SERGEANT MALCOLM "BUCK" MARSH OF COMPANY A, 36TH ARMORED INFANTRY REGIMENT, 3RD ARMORED DIVISION RETURNED TO STAVELOT, BELGIUM, A CITY HE HELPED LIBERATE IN 1944 WITH THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM FOR THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE.



PLAQUES ABBEY STAVELOT A MEMORIAL TO THE VICTIMS OF THE MASSACRE.

FROM THE COLLECTION

Below are a few of the artifacts from the Battle of the Bulge that the Museum has in its collection. Other documents and materials from the Museum's archive will be reproduced and shared with tour participants.



SOUVENIR NAZI FLAG

This captured Nazi flag was signed by members of the 101st Airborne Division's "Battered Bastards of Bastogne," including Anthony Mesich, Stanley Ehret, Sam Jewell, Arthur Nash, and Lt. Leslie Schultz.

Gift in Memory of
Anthony C. Mesich, 2010.052.002



LEATHER GLOVE OF MAJOR GENERAL TROY MIDDLETON

During the Battle of the Bulge, Major General Troy Middleton gained fame for his decision to hold the key crossroads town of Bastogne as German forces advanced around it. A distinguished WWI veteran, Middleton came out of retirement to serve in World War II. He served for 480 days in combat—more than any other American general—and retired again in 1945. He later served as president of Louisiana State University.

Gift of John Hoshman & Danelle Gilkes, 2010.314.012



TANKER'S BOOTS

Major Carl Corbin wore these tanker's boots during the Battle of the Bulge, while serving with the 7th Armored Division in the vicinity of St. Vith, Belgium. The boots were a private purchase, rather than an issued item.

Gift of Carl Corbin, 2000.091.001



FOUR AMERICAN SOLDIERS RIDING ON A HALF-TRACK THROUGH SNOWY FIELD
FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM. GIFT OF JOHN J. JANIK FAMILY, 2013.297.258

FROM THE COLLECTION:

THE C-47 SKYTRAIN

Displayed prominently in Louisiana Memorial Pavilion at The National WWII Museum in New Orleans, the Museum's C-47 Skytrain stands as a testament to the Allied airborne and logistical power that helped shape the outcome of World War II. Built in 1944 by the Douglas Aircraft Company in Oklahoma City, this C-47 was a military adaptation of the civilian DC-3 airliner. With a cargo capacity of 6,000 pounds or room for 18 to 22 fully equipped paratroopers, the C-47 became the backbone of Allied airlift operations across every theater of war.

The aircraft on display, Serial No. 42-93096, has been restored with the markings that were used to denote Allied aircraft that participated in the main US airborne assault on D-Day, when "096" dropped pathfinders to mark the landing zones for the airborne drop. On June 6, 1944, hundreds of C-47s carried paratroopers of the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions into Normandy, initiating one of the largest airborne operations in history. These aircraft also towed gliders loaded with jeeps, howitzers, and medical teams behind German lines. The C-47's role in D-Day has rightly become iconic—but its importance only grew in the months that followed.

During the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944, the C-47 proved critical again. As American forces—including the 101st Airborne—were surrounded in the Belgian town of Bastogne, foul weather grounded most aircraft, and the enemy cut off traditional means of resupply on the ground. When skies finally cleared on December 23, C-47s from the IX Troop Carrier Command of the US Ninth Air Force flew dozens of low-level airdrop missions, delivering tons of urgently needed supplies: food, ammunition, blankets, fuel, and medical gear. During this mission, "096" sustained minor damage from German ground fire, but the plane was repaired and placed back in service in a matter of days. Despite German flak and ground fire, these crews helped sustain the defenders until Patton's Third Army broke the siege three days later.

Purchased by the Museum in 2006 and now displayed with a restored interior, the Museum's C-47 offers visitors a tangible link to the airborne missions that changed the course of the war. From the hedgerows of Normandy to the frozen woods of Bastogne, the Skytrain was a lifeline—its rumble overhead a sign that help was on the way.



DOUGLAS C-47 SKYTRAIN IN FLIGHT

C-47 ON DISPLAY AT THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM



EXTEND YOUR JOURNEY

OPTIONAL PRE-TOUR EXTENSION OPERATION MARKET GARDEN

OCTOBER 5-8, 2026

\$3,099 per person based on double occupancy | \$3,999 single occupancy

This exclusive pre-tour sets the stage for an in-depth exploration of Operation Market Garden, the ambitious but ill-fated Allied campaign to secure key bridges in the Netherlands in September 1944. Journey through Belgium and the Netherlands with expert Dutch tour guide Edwin Popken, visiting key battle sites, memorials, and museums that bring this pivotal operation to life.

Start in Brussels and trace the path of the British XXX Corps as they advanced toward Eindhoven, with touring stops at Joe's Bridge—the starting point of the attack—and the Liberation Garden Museum for an insightful introduction to the campaign. Along the way, explore various locations where paratroopers of the storied 101st and 82nd Airborne Divisions landed, fought, and held their positions against fierce German counterattacks. Key stops include Son Bridge, Grave Bridge, the Heumen Lock, and the intense battle site at Mook, where the Germans nearly cut off the Allied advance.

In the north, explore the famous battlefields of Nijmegen and Arnhem, where the Waal River crossing and the fight for Arnhem Bridge tested the Allies to their limit. A visit to the Hartenstein Museum—headquarters of the British 1st Airborne Division—offers a moving insight into the struggle for survival at Arnhem. Pay tribute to the fallen at the Airborne Cemetery in Oosterbeek before concluding the pre-tour at Margraten American Cemetery.

This pre-tour offers an unforgettable experience blending history, remembrance, and expert-guided storytelling. Join us for a compelling journey through one of World War II's most legendary battles prior to linking up with the main tour group in Aachen to begin the next chapter exploring the historic battlefields of the Hürtgen and Bulge.

ITINERARY

Day 1 OCTOBER 5, 2026

Arrive at Brussels Airport (BRU) / Lunch on own in Leopoldsburg / Liberation Garden Museum / Follow the route of the British XXX Corps to Eindhoven / Check in to hotel / Welcome Reception / Dinner on own • Accommodations: Pullman Hotel Eindhoven (R)

Day 2 OCTOBER 6, 2026

Son Bridge / Follow the areas of the main drop and landing zone of the 101st Airborne / St. Oedenrode Memorial / Koevering / Lunch on own in Veghel / Grave Bridge / Heumen Lock / Dinner on own
Accommodations: Pullman Hotel Eindhoven (B)

Day 3 OCTOBER 7, 2026

Nijmegen road bridge / Waal crossing / Lunch at Hotel Erica / Arnhem Bridge / Arnhem West / Hartenstein Museum / Kate ter Horst home / Arnhem Oosterbeek War Cemetery / Dinner on own
Accommodations: Pullman Hotel Eindhoven (B, L)

Day 4 OCTOBER 8, 2026

Margraten American Cemetery / Depart for Aachen to meet the main group (B)



ARNHEM BRIDGE, "A BRIDGE TOO FAR"



AMERICAN TRANSPORT PLANES
IN THE AIR FROM THE TAIL
VIEW OF A PLANE DURING
OPERATION MARKET-GARDEN

FROM THE DIGITAL COLLECTION



LISTEN TO BRADFORD FREEMAN RECALL HIS EXPERIENCES IN HOLLAND DURING OPERATION MARKET GARDEN. HE WAS THE LAST SURVIVING MEMBER OF EASY COMPANY, PASSING AWAY IN 2022 AT AGE 97.

FEATURED ACCOMMODATIONS

Pre-Tour

THE PULLMAN HOTEL Eindhoven, The Netherlands

This beautiful four-star hotel is located in the charming heart of Eindhoven just opposite the luxury De Heuvel shopping center. The Pullman Eindhoven Cocagne is well-known for their Vestdijk 47 restaurant & bar. Rooms are spacious and include complimentary Wi-Fi, minibar, high-definition television, in-room safe, and room service.



THE PULLMAN HOTEL



PARKHOTEL QUELLENHOF AACHEN

Main Tour

PARKHOTEL QUELLENHOF AACHEN

Nestled in the vibrant heart of Aachen-Mitte and set within its own lush park just steps from the historic Kurpark, this five-star gem offers over a century of refined hospitality. First opened in 1914, the hotel's grand neoclassical façade was lovingly restored post-World War II, blending heritage charm with modern comforts. All rooms boast spacious layouts, king-size beds, bathrobes, safe, air-conditioning, and free Wi-Fi.



CHÂTEAU D'URSPELT

Main Tour

CHÂTEAU D'URSPELT

Château d'Urspelt offers a magical blend of history, luxury, relaxation, and pastoral splendor—your gateway to the heart of Luxembourg's Ardennes. Built in the 1700s and expanded in 1860 atop medieval remnants, this castle functioned as a 110th Infantry Regiment of the 28th Infantry Division command post and hospital during the Battle of the Bulge. It was fully restored in 2008 and features 56 rooms and suites with sophisticated décor, air-conditioning, high-speed Wi-Fi, and Nespresso in suites—all overlooking gardens or castle grounds.





A TOUR GUEST REMEMBERS HER FAMILY MEMBER AT THE 106TH INFANTRY DIVISION MONUMENT IN ST. VITH, BELGIUM.



TESTIMONIALS

FROM PAST TOUR TRAVELERS

"The tour was very informative and eye-opening. To get a small glimpse of conditions and sacrifices that were made has given me a new appreciation and deeper understanding of what we have today and why we must 'never forget.' Thank you for this amazing opportunity."

"Our guide was a fountain of knowledge, and his passion shined through. His desire to bring us to locations, discuss what we saw outside, and teach us was contagious and made us want to learn more."

"Amazing experience all around—we will be booking another trip soon. We realized that the combination of location accessibility, local knowledge, and opportunity for self-exploration of locations is a very rewarding way to travel."

"Our guide, Roland, was amazing. His lifelong study of the Battles of the Hürtgen Forest and the Bulge was reflected on every day of the tour. He knows the ground, the places, the people (well-known and not so well-known), weapons, strategy, and tactics—just about everything. Better than all that, he seems to know and be known by practically everyone in the region: this speaks well of his involvement, long-term commitment, and dedication to the history of World War II."

BOOK YOUR JOURNEY INTO HISTORY TODAY

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THE HÜRTGEN FOREST and THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE on THE ROAD TO BERLIN

OCTOBER 8-15, 2026

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THREE WAYS TO SECURE YOUR SPOT:

1. Call one of our travel specialists at 1-877-813-3329 X 257 or email us at travel@nationalww2museum.org
2. Scan the QR code below with the camera on your smartphone and follow the instructions online to make your reservation.



3. Visit ww2museumtours.org for additional information on this tour and for a complete listing of all tours offered by the Educational Travel Program.

BOOK NOW!

Prices quoted are based on fares in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change at any time.



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Experience THE VICTORY

NEW ORLEANS



Travel to The National WWII Museum in New Orleans to explore, remember, and reflect on World War II through **exclusive access to the Museum's campus**. The National WWII Museum tells the story of the American experience in the war that changed the world—why it was fought, how it was won, and what it means today—so that all generations will understand the price of freedom and be inspired by what they learn. Don't miss this unique opportunity to experience a custom program at this world-class institution!



Enjoy a 5-day exclusive tour of the #1 attraction in New Orleans on **EXPERIENCE THE VICTORY**.
STARTING AT \$1,950 PER PERSON
MULTIPLE DEPARTURES AVAILABLE
Scan the QR code to learn more

AT THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM:

ROAD TO BERLIN

The Duchossois Family *Road to Berlin: European Theater Galleries* brings to life the drama, sacrifices, personal stories, and strategies of America's campaign to defeat the Axis powers and preserve freedom. From faltering first clashes in North Africa and hard-learned lessons in Sicily and Italy, to the bloody struggle at Germany's doorstep, the immersive galleries in *Road to Berlin* follow the United States' fight for dominance in the seas and skies against a battle-hardened enemy in the lead-up to the invasion of Normandy, as well as the successes and setbacks faced after breaching Hitler's "Fortress Europe." Re-created battlefronts and villages—with crumbling walls, bomb-torn rooftops, icy pathways, and a chillingly realistic soundscape—serve as evocative backdrops for powerful artifacts and firsthand accounts, while macro-artifacts and dynamic digital displays dive deeper into the story of Allied victory. Attend a mission briefing with the Bomber Boys and gain perspective inside America's all-important air strategy. See personal artifacts—cigarette boxes, photographs—scattered over real Normandy sand, providing a touching perspective on the human cost of the war. And walk through the snow-covered Ardennes Forest, as glimpses of movement amid the trees hint at unseen dangers soon to come in the bloody Battle of the Bulge.



Into the Bitter Woods

HÜRTGEN FOREST and THE BATTLE OF
THE BULGE on THE ROAD TO BERLIN

OCTOBER 8-15, 2026

AMERICAN SOLDIERS OF
THE 289TH INFANTRY
REGIMENT MARCH ALONG
THE SNOW-COVERED ROAD
ON THEIR WAY TO CUT OFF
THE ST. VITH-HOUFFALIZE
ROAD IN BELGIUM.

SAVE \$500 PER PERSON

WHEN BOOKED BY NOVEMBER 11, 2025

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WWII
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